Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: No. In Bombay false personation has been made a cognisable offence. In order to have the desired effect it has been laid down in the rules that if an agent at a polling booth questions the identity of a voter he will have to deposit Rs. 20 when the Polling Officer will get the address and signature of the voter for future action.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: കൃത്രിമം വല്ലതും ചെയ്തതായിട്ട് വല്ലതും ഗവൺമെണ്ട് റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: One case is under investigation.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അതു് എന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ ?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: That relates to an alleged false personation in the election conducted recently at Trichur.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ് പണിക്കർ: ഇപ്പോൾ തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ ഉള്ളതുകൂടാതെ വേറെ എതെങ്കിലും കേസ്സിൽ എലക്ഷനിൽ കൃത്രിമമായിട്ട് സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിത്വം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയെന്നോ അതിനു നടപടി നടത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നോ വല്ലതും റിപ്പോർട്ട്ചെയ്യുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I want notice.

TAXATION OF FOOD CROPS—DOING AWAY WITH

19. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether in view of the need for the encouragement of raising food crops, the Government will take away all taxation of food crops?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Government regret it cannot be done.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER—NORTHERN DIVISION—JURISDICTION OVER NELLIAMPATHI AREA

20. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) why it is that the Assistant Engineer, Northern Division, is given jurisdiction over the Nelliampathi area;

(*b*) whether it is not better for all concerned to put that area under the Trichur Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) There is no Assistant Engineer, Northern Division. The Assistant Engineer, Eastern Division, is in charge of the Nelliampathi area. He is in charge of the Talappalli and Chittur Taluks and Nelliampathies fall within Chittur Taluk.

(*b*) Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks are already heavy sections and the Assistant Engineer should not be loaded with extra work in a remote place.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Which is the headquarters of the Eastern Division Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Vadakkancheri.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Are the Government aware that people in the Nelliampathies have to go to Vadakkancheri to see the Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: But the Assistant Engineer goes to Chittur, they can see him there. Again the work he has to do by seeing people is not so great. His main work is inspection of roads. It is not possible to ask the Assistant Engineer Central Division to look to the work of Chittur or the Nelliampathies because he is already heavily worked.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Could not the jurisdiction of the Central Division Assistant Engineer be brought under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Engineer Eastern Division?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Nemmara is situated 30 miles from Trichur and if only the Assistant Engineer is appointed to look after Chittur also it will affect supervision. It will be very difficult also.

THOTTARA PUNCHA—STEPS TAKEN TO DRAIN

21. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to drain the Thottara Puncha in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

The question is under consideration of the Government.

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Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: What happened to the allotment made last year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The work was taken up this year. But the protection of Karinilams in Keechery which forms part of the Thottara Puncha scheme has been taken out of the estimate and that work is going to be executed early in 1119. In fact the work has been given on contract.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Before passing on, may I bring one grievance? Yesterday 11 questions have been answered and today 10 questions have been answered. Is it because of paucity of questions?

Mr. President: We have a large number of days in which questions can be answered.

General Discussion on the Budget—*(cont.)*

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Sir, I have the great authority of that eminent historian and philosopher, Edward Gibbon, that it is the duty of every member of a Legislature to indicate the rights of the people, and to fight for the redress of their grievances fearlessly and independently without love of favour and fear of frowns of which the last is often the lot of public workers. And, if, in my humble attempts I follow the words of that eminent writer, which every English parliamentarian has always done to the good of that great country. I do so not in a spirit of cavilling or destructive criticism. If pain is caused, it is as the pain caused by a surgeon's knife when he tries to conduct an operation for the good of the body physical and not that caused by a murderer who wants to kill the victim. Criticism, in the words of that great world leader Winston Churchil, is like pain; while, in the first case, it points out the disease in the body political, in the second it points out the disease in the body physical. And therefore if criticism comes from me, the Government should not take it amiss, but in a good spirit and welcome it rather than frown at me, for it is in the above spirit that it is offered. (A voice are you afraid of frowns). Frowns have always been my lot. So they pass me by as matters of usual occurrence.

When we at this time of stock-taking, go into an analysis and review of the affairs of Cochin, it is unwise, Sir, to ignore the progress and the level which the world has reached. Again to quote Winston Churchil, the world is now progressing at aeroplane speed and according to my humble self at radiography speed, to a future which once looked gloomy, but which today holds promise of a better world. To quote that other great world leader Roosevelt, the world is in the throes of a new birth and "Dr." Roosevelt and "Dr." Winston Churchil are standing by to effect a safe delivery of a hopeful and pretty child. And in this world of ours, which is changing fast we find that nowhere in America is there absolute monarchy. Nor is there in Europe a single autocrat except the great preuds "Caeaser", who has fallen and Hitler, who remains to share the inevitable fate of all dictators. The crowned heads there are few and among these few nobody survives except those who accept the supermacy of their parliaments; King George VI, Emperor of India, is the model for all, never going against the wishes of his parliament but abiding always by the dictates of that parliament which to His Majesty are dictates and therefore to his people are requests. Passing on to dark Africa, and to Australia, the child of England, Parliaments are supreme. Even ancient Asia, Russia, China and even lower down British India accept the sway of Parliaments. In Japan too Parliaments govern. So also in the Western States of Turkey, Iran and Iraq. Over the border in British Cochin they have got Provincial Autonomy. Beyond Shoranur, they have got the right of Responsible Government. Even the unruly tribes of the North West Frontier Province are now having Provincial Autonomy. Sind, where you hear of murders and slaughter, has been raised to that status. Cochin, which has always been flattered as one of the leading States in India in the matter of education, lags behind. She has no Provincial Autonomy. She has no Responsible Government. That is a matter which ought to engage our attention today when we view it in this world setting. Why should we not deserve responsible Government, Sir? Why should we not resolve the fate of Cochin when His Great Britannic Majesty leaves even his privy purse for the people to vote upon? Are we distrusted? What have we done to deserve this distrust? The Minister who is undoubtedly the non-official leader of this country behind whom we are, should ask this question to His Highness the Maharaja and in doing so he can speak as Gladstone spoke once "Your Highness, I am the people of Cochin". Is he not working the reforms with all his might and main in spite of perhaps the most insuperable difficulties which he has to face? Sir, the whole State is now hearing rumours of recommendations of our Diwan not being accepted and his schemes being turned down.

Mr. President: I would like to point out to the Hon'ble Member that I do not think this reference to be in order.

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